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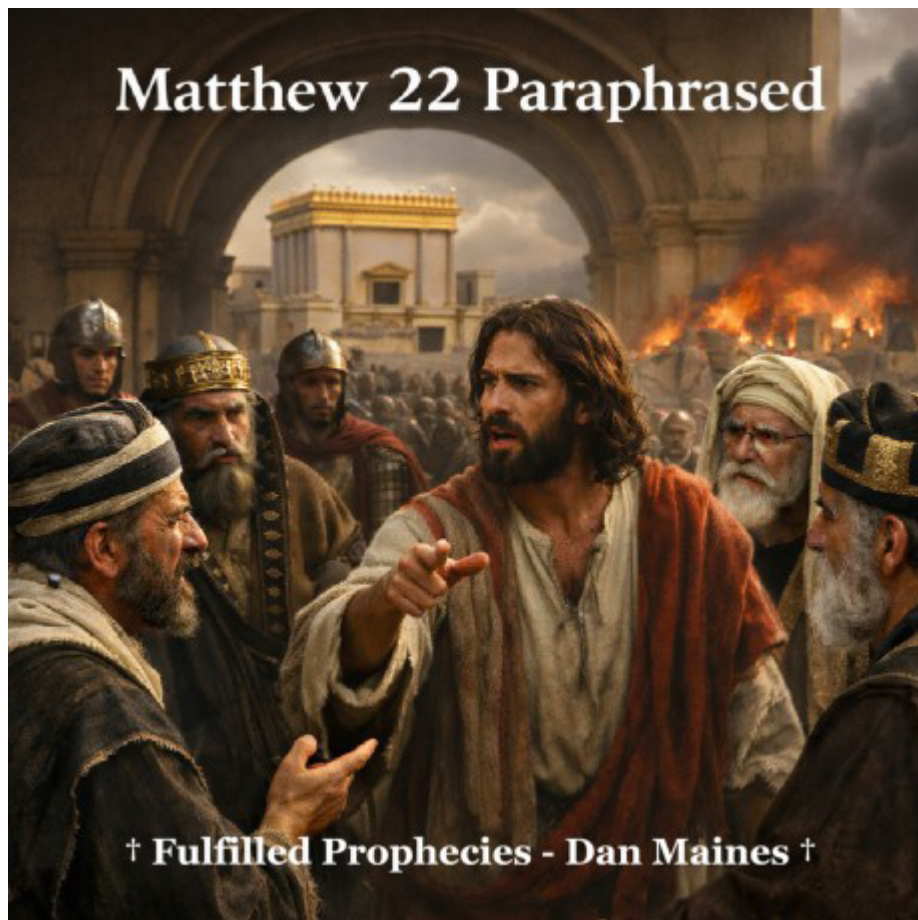
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## Matthew 22 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Matthew 22 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Jesus continues speaking to the leaders of Israel who had already rejected Him. The chief priests and Pharisees had challenged His authority in the previous chapter, so He now answers them with parables that expose their unbelief and warn them of the judgment that was about to fall on their generation (Matthew 21:45-46).

† This chapter shows three major confrontations. First, Jesus describes Israel rejecting the kingdom invitation. Second, the

religious leaders try to trap Him with political and theological questions. Third, Jesus exposes their misunderstanding of the Messiah. All of this takes place only days before His crucifixion. † From the fulfilled perspective, these warnings pointed directly to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. The leaders rejected the King, the invitation went out to others, and judgment came on the city that rejected Him (Matthew 23:36-38; Luke 21:20-22).

## **The Parable Of The Wedding Feast**

### **Matthew 22:1**

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying,

† Jesus continues addressing the same religious leaders He confronted in the temple. They understood He was speaking about them (Matthew 21:45).

† Parables often revealed truth to those willing to hear while exposing the blindness of those who rejected God's message (Matthew 13:13).

† The setting is still the temple in Jerusalem only days before the crucifixion.

### **Matthew 22:2**

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

† The king represents God the Father, and the son represents Christ. The wedding feast represents the arrival of the kingdom and the covenant blessings offered through the Messiah (Isaiah 25:6).

† The imagery of a wedding was common in Jewish teaching and symbolized covenant relationship and celebration (Hosea 2:19-20).

† The invitation represents the call to Israel first, because the

covenant promises were given to them (Romans 9:4-5).

### **Matthew 22:3**

And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.

† The servants represent the prophets and later the apostles who called Israel to repentance (2 Chronicles 36:15-16).

† Israel had long been invited through the covenant promises, yet many refused when the time of fulfillment arrived.

† This rejection continued during Jesus' ministry and through the preaching of the apostles.

### **Matthew 22:4**

Again he sent out other slaves saying, Tell those who have been invited, Behold I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready, come to the wedding feast.

† This shows the patience of God in repeatedly inviting Israel to respond.

† Jesus and the apostles continued calling Israel to repentance even after many rejected the message.

† The kingdom was ready because the Messiah had arrived.

### **Matthew 22:5**

But they paid no attention and went their separate ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

† Many simply ignored the message because they were focused on daily life.

† Indifference to God's invitation is just as serious as open rebellion.

† This reflects how many in Israel ignored Jesus' message despite witnessing His miracles.

### **Matthew 22:6**

And the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed

them.

† This reflects the long history of Israel persecuting the prophets (Matthew 23:37).

† It also foreshadows the persecution of the apostles after Christ's resurrection (Acts 7:52).

† Stephen and James were among the first Christian martyrs.

### **Matthew 22:7**

But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.

† This is a direct prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

† Jesus repeatedly warned that judgment would come on that generation for rejecting the Messiah (Matthew 23:36).

† The Roman armies fulfilled this when Jerusalem was burned during the siege (Luke 21:20-24).

### **Matthew 22:8**

Then he said to his slaves, The wedding feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

† Israel as a nation rejected the invitation through unbelief.

† Worthiness here refers to responding to the invitation, not earning salvation.

† Because many refused, the invitation was extended further.

### **Matthew 22:9**

Go therefore to the main highways, and invite whomever you find to the wedding feast.

† This represents the gospel going out beyond the original invited guests.

† The apostles carried the message beyond Jerusalem into the wider world (Acts 1:8).

† Gentiles were included in the kingdom invitation.

### **Matthew 22:10**

And those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all whom they found, both evil and good, and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

† The kingdom invitation goes to all people.

† Both good and bad means people from every background were called.

† The early church included Jews and Gentiles together in Christ (Ephesians 2:14-16).

### **Matthew 22:11**

But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes.

† Wedding garments symbolize righteousness provided by God.

† The kingdom invitation must be accepted properly, not merely entered outwardly.

† True participation requires genuine acceptance of the King.

### **Matthew 22:12**

And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes? And the man was speechless.

† The man had no excuse because the garment would normally be provided.

† This illustrates the danger of trying to enter God's kingdom on one's own terms.

† Religious appearance without true righteousness cannot stand before God.

### **Matthew 22:13**

Then the king said to the servants, Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

† Jesus often used this phrase to describe exclusion from the kingdom.

† It represents judgment and separation from God's blessing.

† This warning was directed especially at those who rejected Christ while claiming religious status.

### **Matthew 22:14**

For many are called, but few are chosen.

† Many hear the invitation, but only those who respond in faith truly enter.

† This summarizes the entire parable.

† Israel as a nation was called, yet many rejected the invitation.

### **Paying Taxes To Caesar**

#### **Matthew 22:15**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said.

† The religious leaders were now openly trying to destroy Him.

† They wanted to create a political accusation against Him.

† Their goal was to turn either Rome or the Jewish people against Him.

#### **Matthew 22:16**

And they sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians, saying, Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one, for You are not partial to any.

† The Pharisees and Herodians normally opposed each other, but they united against Jesus.

† Their flattering words were a setup for the trap they were about to present.

† They hoped to force Him into a political statement.

#### **Matthew 22:17**

Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay a poll tax to Caesar, or not?

† If Jesus said yes, many Jews would view Him as supporting Roman oppression.

† If He said no, they could accuse Him of rebellion against Rome.

† It was a carefully designed trap.

### **Matthew 22:18**

But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, Why are you testing Me, hypocrites?

† Jesus immediately exposes their motives.

† He calls them hypocrites because their question was dishonest.

† Their concern was not truth but entrapment.

### **Matthew 22:19**

Show Me the coin used for the poll tax. And they brought Him a denarius.

† The denarius carried the image of Caesar.

† By producing the coin, they admitted they were already using Roman currency.

† This set up Jesus' famous response.

### **Matthew 22:20**

And He said to them, Whose likeness and inscription is this?

† The coin clearly displayed Caesar's authority.

† Jesus was guiding them to answer their own question.

† The issue centered on rightful authority.

### **Matthew 22:21**

They said to Him, Caesar's. Then He said to them, Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

† Jesus avoided their trap by distinguishing civil authority from divine authority.

† Government may require certain obligations, but ultimate allegiance belongs to God.

† This answer amazed both His followers and His enemies.

## **Matthew 22:22**

And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away.

† The trap completely failed.

† His wisdom silenced His opponents.

† Yet their hostility continued to grow.

## **The Question About The Resurrection**

### **Matthew 22:23**

On that day some Sadducees who say there is no resurrection came to Jesus and questioned Him,

† The Sadducees denied the resurrection and most supernatural elements.

† They accepted only the first five books of Moses as authoritative.

† Their question attempted to ridicule the idea of resurrection.

### **Matthew 22:24**

Teacher, Moses said, If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife and raise up children for his brother.

† This law came from Deuteronomy 25:5.

† It was intended to preserve family lineage in Israel.

† The Sadducees used it to create a hypothetical problem.

### **Matthew 22:25**

Now there were seven brothers with us, and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother.

### **Matthew 22:26**

So also the second, and the third, down to the seventh.

### **Matthew 22:27**

Last of all the woman died.

### **Matthew 22:28**

In the resurrection therefore, whose wife of the seven will she

be? For they all had married her.

† The story was meant to make resurrection seem absurd.

† They assumed resurrection life would function exactly like earthly life.

† Their argument rested on a misunderstanding of scripture.

### **Matthew 22:29**

But Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.

† Jesus directly rebukes their theological error.

† They misunderstood both God's power and His word.

† Many religious leaders made the same mistake.

### **Matthew 22:30**

For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

† Resurrection life does not follow the same structure as earthly life.

† Marriage exists for this age.

† The resurrection involves a transformed state.

### **Matthew 22:31**

But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:

### **Matthew 22:32**

I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.

† Jesus quotes Exodus 3:6.

† God spoke of the patriarchs as living even though they had died physically.

† This proved resurrection from the very books the Sadducees accepted.

### **Matthew 22:33**

When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His

teaching.

† The people recognized the authority of His answer.

† The Sadducees were completely refuted.

† Jesus demonstrated perfect understanding of scripture.

## **The Greatest Commandment**

### **Matthew 22:34**

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

† Another group now attempts to challenge Him.

† The religious leaders were determined to defeat Him publicly.

† Yet every attempt continued to fail.

### **Matthew 22:35**

One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

† A lawyer in this context was an expert in the Law of Moses.

† His goal was to trap Jesus in a theological dispute.

† Jewish teachers often debated which commandments were greatest.

### **Matthew 22:36**

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?

† The Law contained hundreds of commandments.

† Teachers frequently ranked them by importance.

† This question sought to provoke controversy.

### **Matthew 22:37**

And He said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

† Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:5.

† This command summarizes complete devotion to God.

† Love is the foundation of true obedience.

### **Matthew 22:38**

This is the great and foremost commandment.

† Everything in the Law begins with devotion to God.

† Without this, religious activity becomes empty.

† True faith begins with love for God.

### **Matthew 22:39**

The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

† This comes from Leviticus 19:18.

† Love for others reflects genuine obedience to God.

† Jesus shows that the Law centers on love.

### **Matthew 22:40**

On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

† Every command in scripture flows from these two principles.

† Love for God and love for others summarize the entire moral law.

† This statement simplifies what many had complicated.

### **The Question About David's Son**

#### **Matthew 22:41**

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question:

† After answering their challenges, Jesus now questions them.

† This exposes their misunderstanding of the Messiah.

† It also shows their limited view of scripture.

#### **Matthew 22:42**

What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He? They said to Him, The son of David.

† Everyone knew the Messiah would come from David's line (2 Samuel 7:12).

† The Pharisees correctly recognized this prophecy.

† But they did not understand the full identity of the Messiah.

#### **Matthew 22:43**

He said to them, Then how does David in the Spirit call Him Lord, saying,

## **Matthew 22:44**

The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet.

† Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1.

† David calls the Messiah Lord, showing the Messiah is greater than David.

† This reveals the divine authority of the Messiah.

## **Matthew 22:45**

If David then calls Him Lord, how is He his son?

† Jesus highlights a mystery they could not explain.

† The Messiah is both David's descendant and David's Lord.

† This points to the divine nature of Christ.

## **Matthew 22:46**

No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

† The religious leaders were completely silenced.

† Their authority had been publicly challenged and defeated.

† From this point forward they moved toward arresting Him.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records that the religious leadership in Jerusalem frequently opposed prophetic voices and resisted calls to repentance, a pattern that continued in the first century (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 20.8).

† Eusebius later noted that the warnings Jesus gave about judgment on Jerusalem were fulfilled during the Roman siege of AD 70 (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Tacitus describes how the Roman armies burned Jerusalem during the war, matching the imagery Jesus used in the parable of the king destroying the city (Tacitus, Histories 5.12).

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† God's invitation to the kingdom must not be ignored. Many

people hear the message but treat it as unimportant (Matthew 22:5).

† Religious appearance alone is not enough. The wedding garment represents true righteousness through Christ (Isaiah 61:10).

† We must give proper respect to civil authority while keeping our ultimate loyalty to God (Matthew 22:21).

† Loving God and loving others remain the foundation of faithful living (Matthew 22:37-40).

† Many people hear the invitation of the kingdom but delay responding because they are distracted by daily life. Jesus showed that ignoring the invitation is just as dangerous as openly rejecting it (Matthew 22:5).

† God continues to call people into His kingdom today through the gospel message. The invitation is still open, but it must be taken seriously (Matthew 22:9-10).

† True faith is not about outward religion but about being clothed in the righteousness God provides. The man without the wedding garment shows that appearance alone cannot stand before God (Matthew 22:11-12).

† We must never try to approach God on our own terms. The kingdom requires submission to the King and acceptance of His provision (Matthew 22:13).

† Our loyalty to God must always come before political or earthly systems. Jesus showed that earthly authority has limits, but God's authority does not (Matthew 22:21).

† Loving God must be the center of our lives. When our heart truly belongs to Him, obedience naturally follows (Matthew 22:37).

† Loving our neighbor reflects genuine faith. The entire Law is summarized by loving God and loving others (Matthew 22:39-

40).

† Many religious leaders in Jesus' day knew scripture but still missed the Messiah standing in front of them. Knowledge without humility can still lead to blindness (Matthew 22:29).

† We must always let scripture interpret scripture. Jesus used the very writings the Sadducees accepted to show the truth about resurrection (Matthew 22:31-32).

† Christ is not only the son of David but David's Lord. Recognizing who Jesus truly is remains the most important question every person must answer (Matthew 22:42-45).

† Jesus warned Israel that rejecting God's invitation would bring judgment. History proved His words true when Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22).

† Religious leaders in Jesus' day believed their position guaranteed their standing with God, yet they rejected the very Messiah they claimed to be waiting for (John 5:39-40).

† Scripture knowledge alone does not produce faith. The Pharisees knew the Law but still could not recognize the One the Law pointed to (Matthew 22:41-45).

† God often gives repeated warnings before judgment. Israel received generations of prophets, then the ministry of Christ, then the apostles before the final judgment came (2 Chronicles 36:15-16).

† Every generation must answer the same question Jesus asked the Pharisees, What do you think about the Christ? (Matthew 22:42).

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Did the burning of the city in the parable refer to a future end of the world?

**A:** No. Jesus was warning about the coming destruction of Jerusalem in that generation. Matthew 23:36 says all these

things will come upon this generation. Luke 21:20-22 also describes Jerusalem surrounded by armies.

**Q:** Why did Jesus say many are called but few are chosen?

**A:** Because many hear the message but only some respond in faith. Matthew 7:13-14 describes the narrow gate that few find.

**Q:** Why could the Sadducees not answer Jesus?

**A:** Because Jesus used the very books they accepted to prove resurrection. Exodus 3:6 shows God speaking of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as living.

**Q:** Who were the original guests invited to the wedding feast?

**A:** The invitation first went to Israel because they were the covenant people who had received the promises. Romans 9:4 says to whom belongs the adoption as sons, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the temple service, and the promises. Jesus sent His message first to Israel, but many rejected it (Matthew 22:3).

**Q:** What does the burning of the city represent in the parable?

**A:** It represents the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus warned that judgment would fall on that generation for rejecting Him. Matthew 23:36 says Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. Luke 21:20 says when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

**Q:** Who are the people gathered from the highways in the parable?

**A:** This represents the gospel going beyond the original invitation. After Israel's rejection, the message spread outward to many others. Acts 13:46 says It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

**Q:** What is the wedding garment in the parable?

**A:** The garment represents righteousness provided by God, not something people produce themselves. Isaiah 61:10 says He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness.

**Q:** Why did Jesus say Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's?

**A:** Jesus was separating civil responsibility from devotion to God. Believers may respect civil authority, but God alone receives ultimate allegiance. Romans 13:1 says Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.

**Q:** Why did the Sadducees deny the resurrection?

**A:** The Sadducees only accepted the books of Moses as authoritative and rejected later teachings about resurrection. Acts 23:8 says the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

**Q:** How did Jesus prove the resurrection to the Sadducees?

**A:** He quoted Exodus, which they accepted as scripture. Exodus 3:6 says I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Jesus explained that God is not the God of the dead but of the living (Matthew 22:32).

**Q:** Why did Jesus summarize the Law with two commandments?

**A:** Because every command in scripture ultimately reflects love for God and love for others. Romans 13:10 says Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.

**Q:** Why could the Pharisees not answer Jesus' question about David's son?

**A:** Because Psalm 110:1 shows the Messiah is greater than David. Psalm 110:1 says The Lord says to my Lord Sit at My

right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet. The Messiah would be both David's descendant and David's Lord.

**Q:** Why did the leaders stop questioning Jesus after this chapter?

**A:** Because every attempt to trap Him publicly failed. His answers exposed their misunderstanding of scripture and their hypocrisy. Matthew 22:46 says No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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### **Source Index**

† Matthew 22; Matthew 21:45-46; Matthew 23:36-38; Luke 21:20-24; Isaiah 25:6; Hosea 2:19-20; Romans 9:4-5; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:14-16; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Psalm 110:1; Exodus 3:6; Matthew 7:13-14; Isaiah 61:10

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories.

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